

improved treatment and live more comfortable, more productive, and more satisfying lives. Yet, despite research efforts, this dreadful disease continues to be a major threat to human well-being. America must do more to treat and eliminate the curse of arthritis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 1974, as National Arthritis Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to issue similar proclamations.

I urge the people of the United States and educational, philanthropic, scientific, medical, and health care organizations and professionals to provide the necessary assistance and resources to discover the cause and cure of arthritis and rheumatic diseases and to alleviate the suffering of persons struck by these disorders.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-eighth.

RICHARD NIXON

Proclamation 4291

• May 1, 1974

Older Americans Month, 1974

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America possesses no greater natural resource than the collective wisdom and experience of its older citizens.

The first White House Conference on Aging, held in January of 1961, resulted in a Senior Citizen's Charter on the rights and obligations of older persons and represented an important first step toward giving proper recognition to our older citizens. The second White House Conference on Aging, which was held in December of 1971, broadened that recognition and deepened our national commitment to the welfare of the elderly.

The eve of our Nation's Bicentennial seems a most fitting moment for considering the development of a new Declaration of Rights and Obligations of Older Persons. Consideration of that new declaration should begin immediately at the community level so that it may be proclaimed at the State and national levels as part of our Bicentennial celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the month of May 1974, as Older Americans Month, and urge all who participate in State and community programs in observance of this month to call attention to the 1961 Senior Citizen's Charter and to undertake consideration of ways and means of achieving the goal of proclaiming a new Declaration of Rights and Obligations for Older Persons which can become a rallying point for our Nation during the Bicentennial year of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-eighth.

RICHARD NIXON

Proclamation 4292

May 11, 1974

**National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation
Week, 1974**

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The phenomenal growth of America in just two hundred short years has been directly related to the growth of our national system of transportation. Today we have the largest and most diverse transportation system in the world, and the men and women who make that system work contribute nearly twenty percent to our Nation's gross national product.

As our society continues to grow, we must ensure that the effectiveness of our transportation system keeps pace with the changing demands placed on it. Both the Federal Government and the private sector have a role to play in ensuring that effectiveness.